

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A container system for flowable materials comprising:

a front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;

a back wall having an inner ~~surface and surface~~, an outer surface, and a first surface area;

an opening in the front wall; and

a patch-attached to the back wall of the container and having a second surface area less than the first surface area, the patch being positioned opposite and in substantial registration with the opening.

Claim 2 (original): The container system of claim 1 wherein the patch is attached to the inner surface of the back wall.

Claim 3 (original): The container system of claim 1 wherein the patch is attached to the outer surface of the back wall.

Claim 4 (original): The container system of claim 1 further comprising a fitment assembly accommodated in the opening in the front wall, the fitment assembly having a flange attaching the fitment assembly to the front wall.

Claim 5 (original): The container system of claim 4 further comprising a heat sealable membrane attached to the flange.

Claim 6 (original): The container system of claim 5 wherein the heat sealable membrane is a monolayer structure or a multiple layer structure.

Claim 7 (original): The container system of claim 6 wherein the heat sealable membrane is a two layer structure.

Claim 8 (original): The container system of claim 7 wherein the heat sealable membrane includes a first heat sealable film layer and a second non-heat sealable film layer.

Claim 9 (original): The container system of claim 8 wherein the first heat sealable film layer is selected from the group of polyolefins, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, PVC, polyamides, and polyesters.

Claim 10 (original): The container system of claim 8 wherein the second non-heat sealable film layer is selected from the group of polyolefins, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, PVC, polyamides, and polyesters.

Claim 11 (original): The container system of claim 1 wherein the patch is a monolayer structure or a multiple layer structure.

Claim 12 (original): The container system of claim 11 wherein the patch is a two layer structure.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The container system of claim 12 wherein the patch includes a first layer ~~of~~ of a polyamide, and a second layer.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The container system of claim 13 wherein the second layer ~~is~~ is a polyethylene.

Claim 15 (original): The container system of claim 11 wherein the patch is a three layer structure.

Claim 16 (original): The container system of claim 15 wherein the patch includes a first layer, a second layer, and a third metallized layer attached to the first layer opposite the second layer.

Claim 17 (original): The container system of claim 15 wherein the patch includes an inner layer, a first outer layer, and a second outer layer.

Claim 18 (original): The container system of claim 17 wherein the inner layer is metallized.

Claim 19 (original): The container system of claim 17 wherein the inner layer is a polyamide.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The container system of claim 17 wherein the first outer layer ~~is~~ is a polyethylene.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The container system of claim 17 wherein the second outer layer ~~is~~ is a polyethylene.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The container system of claim 14 wherein the second layer ~~is~~ is a low density polyethylene.

Claim 23 (original): The container system of claim 14 wherein the second layer is approximately 0.0005 inches thick.

Claim 24 (original): The container system of claim 13 wherein the second layer is extrusion coated onto the first layer.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The container system of claim 12 wherein the patch includes a first layer ~~of~~ of a polyester, and a second layer.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The container system of claim 25 wherein the second layer ~~is~~ is a polyethylene.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The container system of claim 26 wherein the second layer ~~is~~ is a low density polyethylene.

Claim 28 (original): The container system of claim 26 wherein the second layer is approximately 0.0005 inches thick.

Claim 29 (original): The container system of claim 25 wherein the second layer is extrusion coated onto the first layer.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): A multilayer film patch, the patch comprising:
a first layer of polyamide; and
a second layer of polyethylene.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 30 wherein the second layer is
extrusion coated onto the first layer.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 30 wherein the second layer is
approximately 0.0005 inches thick.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 30 wherein the second layer is a low
density polyethylene.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 30 wherein the second layer of
polyethylene has an outer surface, and further comprising adhesive on the outer surface
of the second layer.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 34 wherein the adhesive includes at
least one bead of adhesive on the outer surface of the second layer.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 30 further comprising a third layer
attached to the first layer.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 36 wherein the third layer is
metallized.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): A multilayer film patch, the patch comprising: a first
layer of polyester; and a second layer of polyethylene.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 38 wherein the second layer of
polyethylene has an outer surface, and further comprising adhesive on the outer surface
of the second layer.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 39 wherein the adhesive includes at
least one bead of adhesive on the outer surface of the second layer.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 38 wherein the second layer is extrusion coated onto the first layer.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 38 wherein the second layer is approximately 0.0005 inches thick.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 38 wherein the second layer is a low density polyethylene.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): A multilayer film patch, the film patch comprising:
an inner metallized layer; a first outer layer; and
a second outer layer.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 44 wherein the first outer layer is polyethylene.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 44 wherein the second outer layer is polyethylene.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): A multilayer film patch, the film patch comprising:
an inner layer of polyamide;
a first outer layer; and
a second outer layer.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 47 wherein the first outer layer is polyethylene.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The patch of claim 47 wherein the second outer layer is polyethylene.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): A method of filling a flexible container comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible container, the container having a front wall, the front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, the front wall also having an opening, the

container also having a back wall, the back wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;

providing a fitment assembly accommodated in the opening in the front wall, the fitment assembly having a flange attaching the fitment assembly to the front wall, the flange also having a heat sealable membrane attached to the flange;

attaching a patch to the outer surface of the container back wall;

bringing at least part of the inner surface of the portion of the container back wall to which the patch is attached into contact with the heat sealable membrane; and

applying heat to the patch while the inner surface of the back wall is in contact with the heat sealable membrane to seal the membrane to the flange.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): A method of filling a flexible container comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible container, the container having a front wall, the front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, the front wall also having an opening, the container also having a back wall, the back wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;

providing a fitment assembly accommodated in the opening in the front wall, the fitment assembly having a flange attaching the fitment assembly to the front wall, the flange also having a heat sealable membrane attached to the flange;

attaching a patch to the inner surface of the container back wall;

bringing at least part of the patch into contact with the heat sealable membrane; and

applying heat to the container back wall while the patch is in contact with the heat sealable membrane to seal the membrane to the flange.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): A method of filling a flexible container comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible container, the container having a front wall, the front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, the front wall also having an opening, the

container also having a back wall, the back wall having at least a first layer and a second layer;

providing a fitment assembly accommodated in the opening in the front wall, the fitment assembly having a flange attaching the fitment assembly to the front wall, the flange also having a heat sealable membrane attached to the flange;

positioning a patch between the first layer and second layer of the container back wall;

bringing at least part of the back wall into contact with the heat sealable membrane; and

applying heat to the container back wall while the first layer of the back wall is in contact with the heat sealable membrane to seal the membrane to the flange.

Claim 53 (currently amended): A container for a flowable ~~materials~~ material comprising:

a front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;

a back wall having an inner surface and an outer surface and a first surface area;

an opening in the front wall; and

the back wall including a patch having a second surface area less than the first surface area opposite the opening.

Claim 54 (original): The container of claim 53 wherein the patch is located between the inner and outer surface of the back wall.

Claim 55 (original): The container of claim 54 wherein the back wall includes a first layer and a second layer, and the patch is located between first layer and the second layer.